

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is the name given to the Jewish New Year, the words actually mean 'head' or 'start'. It is a gift of time, a new opportunity to learn and grow.



- 1 Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- 2 Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Look at the pictures and talk about how Jewish people celebrate their New Year. How do you celebrate your New Year?
Talk about the special food eaten during Rosh Hashanah. What is special about a Pomegranate? Look at a pomegranate and cut it so you can see all the pips inside.
Why do you think that apples and honey are eaten?
Why is the challah bread a different shape?
Ask the children to find out what a Shofar is. Why is it blown and what sort of noise does it make?
Talk about things the children might do wrong, and how they are going to put them right.

Rosh Hashanah



Rosh Hashanah is when Jews celebrate their New Year. There are special symbols that are associated with Rosh Hashanah.



Jews have to keep lots of special rules and laws. There are 613 all written down in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. The Pomegranate helps them to remember all these rules because it has 613 pips in each fruit.



**Apples and Honey are also symbols
of sweet wishes for the New Year.**



A round Challah loaf reminds Jews of the unending circle of time.

Rosh Hashanah is also celebrated in the Synagogue, the Jewish place of worship.



The Shofar is blown to tell Jews three special things;

- **To tell everyone it is a special day**
- **To remind everyone that God is special**
- **To warn everyone to try to be better**

A shofar is a Rams horn.



Jews say thank you to God for Creation. They read the story of Creation from their Holy scroll and they also read the story of Abraham and Isaac.

Rosh Hashanah is a happy time, but also a serious time.